



ENGL 203 World Literature (45 hours, 3 credits)

Faculty: Giorgia Del Santo (giorgia.delsanto@santannainstitute.com)

Office hours: after class

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course acquaints students with significant figures and works of world literature.

We live in a world of fast and fleeting connections. Whether online or offline, we are flooded by images, texts, sounds, videos, status updates, Instagram photos, and other streams of information. Some believe that we are losing the capacity to focus and concentrate, a multitude of others that we are developing new skills and capacities, adapting to digital media in ways that are redefining our relationship to the creation of meaning.

How can “world literature” help us navigate the predicament of the postmodern present? What can it do for our understanding of where we are, where we’ve been, and where we’re going? What does “world literature” actually mean? Are we talking about a specific canon of texts, or simply a perspective, a methodology, a way of reading literature that transcends national boundaries and opens new networks and modes of understanding? In this course, we’ll tackle these questions by engaging with a number of different texts and genres not just from the Western- European tradition, but also from other cultural and historical traditions across the globe as well. Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course explores a vast range of expression (from inscriptions on ancient tablets to poetry, cinema, and theater), while paying particular attention to the role of genre, media, and narrative in shaping humanity and the human condition.

Class requirements include regular participation, a writing journal, a midterm, and a final exam.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will evaluate, comprehend, and proficiently interpret major developments in world history, the historical roots of contemporary global cultures, or the literary, philosophical, or religious contributions of world cultures.
- Students will engage with significant figures and works of World Literature.
- Students will synthesize, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary material, media, and other means of expression.
- Students will analyze connections between specific texts and broader cultural and media contexts (both historical and contemporary)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **PARTICIPATION:** 25%
- **WRITING JOURNAL:** 30%
- **MIDTERM EXAM:** 20%
- **FINAL EXAM:** 25%

PARTICIPATION (25%):

All students are expected to come to class prepared and on time, ready to participate in the class discussions; you should come to class having thought about the readings and ready to offer your own reflections, comments, analysis, and questions. The quality of your contributions is as important as their quantity. This portion of your grade will also be influenced by group activities and in-class writing assignments.

WRITING JOURNAL (30%):

Throughout the course, you're responsible for maintaining a journal in which you critically and creatively engage with the assigned readings. You are required to write 5 journal entries (2 pages each) over the course of the term and 1 with PPT illustration. Full details about the assignment, including word count, logistics about formatting and grading, along with requirements and suggestions, will be provided at the beginning of the course.

MIDTERM EXAM (20%):

The midterm exam will consist of essay-type and multiple-choice questions. Students will generate many of these questions during in- class group work. Details about the midterm will be provided during the course.

FINAL EXAM (25%):

Details about the final exam will be discussed in class. The format of the exam will consist primarily of matching, identification (i.e., terms, authors, and texts), multiple choice, and short answer. Keeping good notes throughout the term will be critical for doing well on the exam

Grading Scale

A 95%-100%
A- 90%-94%
B+ 87%-89%
B 83%-86%
B- 80%-82%
C+ 77%-79%
C 73%-76%
C- 70%-72%
D+ 67%-69%
D 63%-66%
D- 60%-62%
F under 60%

Units and topics:

Introduction

The Divine Comedy. Inferno

Greek Drama

Homer, *The Odyssey*

Fairy Tales

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventure in the Wonderland*

Alice by Tim Burton

Dark Tales

Edgar Allan Poe, *The Black Cat*

Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*

Storytelling

The Arabian Nights: Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp Murasaki

Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*

The Novel of Apprenticeship

Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*

The Essay

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Midterm Exam

Sci-Fi

Mary Shelly, *Frankenstein*

Mel Brooks, *Frankenstein Junior*

World Poetry

The sonnet (from Petrarch and Shakespeare to Neruda)

Léopold Senghor and Mahmoud Darwish

Feminine poems (Maya Angelou, Nina Simone, Sujata Batt)

Writing workshop

Occidental and Extra-Occidental Encounters

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

F.F. Coppola, *Apocalypse Now*

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

The Graphic Novel

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*

Theatre

Samuel Becket, *Waiting for Godot*

Final Exam

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Students are encouraged to contact the professor by email for any and all reasons.

COURSE PROCEDURES/POLICIES

- Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for the Faculty and your colleagues.

- Late Assignments

Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and will be assessed a late penalty of one letter grade per day late. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

- Contesting a grade

If students wish to contest a grade they must make an appointment to do so in person. The student should contact the instructor with any concerns within ONE week of receiving the grade. The student must also demonstrate that they have read the comments accompanying the grade by presenting a brief written statement specifying why the grade does not reflect the quality of the work.

It is at the discretion of the instructor to decide whether the work and the student's request warrant any increase or decrease in the grade. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and feedback (in case of loss) and should also retain all of their marked assignments.

- Academic Honesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is NOT tolerated in this course.

Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity. If you refer to someone else's work, appropriate references and citations must be provided.

Attendance:

You are allowed two unexcused absences. Documentation for any other absence **MUST** be produced and **APPROVED** by the professor or the Academic Director. For absences due to illness, please provide the professor with a doctor's note upon returning to class as well as inform them and /or the school the first day of illness. **Each unexcused absence after the second will reduce your grade by 3 percentage points.**